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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 15th April 1905.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—*Politics.*

495. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*'s correspondent at Krishnagar draws attention to the numerous burglaries which have lately occurred in Goari and Krishnagar.

At Goari a burglar entered the house of Babu Shamatpara Mukerjee, pleader, and was seized by a crowd of people who, hearing a hue and cry, had gathered at the gate. It was noticed that several well-dressed persons in the crowd tried to snatch away the accused and let him get off. They were unsuccessful, but on arrival at the police-station the Head-Clerk of the Police office, who was there, acted most officiously and unjustifiably. He considered the man was wrongly arrested, as it was very difficult to identify him and there was no formal complaint.

It is hoped that a vigorous and prompt investigation will be made by competent officers to ascertain the real facts of the case.

496. The *Bengalee* strongly condemns the policy of excluding Indians from the competitive examination for the Police Europeans and the Police Service. Service, and points out the unreasonableness and inconsistency of this wholesale ostracism, when Indians are not debarred from competing for the Indian Civil Service.

The European has not the monopoly of all the fine qualities. Indians are willing to abide by any tests and should not be excluded on the ground of race.

497. A correspondent of the *Bengalee* draws the attention of the Commissioner of Police to the nuisance caused by a gang of social evil at Shambazar. public women near the Shambazar terminus of the Tramway Company. There are also two or three such women at No. 110, Cornwallis Street, in the vicinity of several schools and a library, where their presence is most undesirable.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

498. A Khulna correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* complaining of the discourteous behaviour of a local Munsif, whose name is for the present withheld, towards those who have the misfortune to appear in his Court.

Complaint against a Munsif of Khulna.

499. Referring to the subject of the handsome compensation made to Mr. Rolt, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that it would be unfair to make the proprietors of the Khagra Estate bear the cost of this generous *amende* to their manager who was prosecuted not at their instance but by the Magistrate, Mr. Lea, and his subordinates. Justice, morality, decency and all that is fair and reasonable demand that the persecutors of Mr. Rolt, not the innocent minors, should be made to compensate him for the wrong done. And with this view the Lieutenant-Governor is asked to do justice in the matter.

500. The *Bengalee* congratulates Government on its decision with regard to Mr. Rolt, late Manager of the Khagra Estate, *Ibid.* and trusts that when a Bengali gentleman is found to have been similarly wantonly harassed and persecuted by the "little tyrants" of his district, he will be treated with the same degree of generosity.

501. Commenting on the result of the Rolt case, the *Indian Empire* considers that justice demands he should be compensated by the local officials of Purnea who harassed him, and not by the ward's estate or the Government who are quite innocent in the matter. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should have made this question clear in his order.

502. The *Bengalee* and *Amrita Bazar Patrika* both devote articles to criticising the order of Mr. Craven, an Extra Assistant Commissioner and Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj, Assam, appointing two local rival zamindars special constables under section 17 of Act V of 1861 and directing

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th April 1905.

BENGALEE,
6th April 1905.

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PATRIKA,
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BENGALEE,
7th April 1905.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
11th April 1905.

BENGALEE,
AND
AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th April 1905.

them to undergo the usual drills and discipline of the Indian constabulary. Under the circular order of Government, No. 1145J., of the 27th February 1895, the appointment of special constables in cases of disputes regarding rights in land is strictly prohibited. As Mr. Craven has deliberately misused his powers in this respect, the Chief Commissioner is asked to call for the records of the case and consider the propriety of retaining him at Habiganj.

NEW INDIA,
9th April 1905.

503. *New India* draws attention to a case of magisterial *sukum* reported by Mr. Craven, Subdivisional Officer from Assam. Mr. Craven, the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj in Sylhet, has been harassing two respectable local zamindars who had a dispute over a piece of land. Not satisfied with having proceedings under section 107, Civil Procedure Code, directed against them, Mr. Craven appointed both men special constables and ordered that they should not only attend the police-station regularly every day, but also be subjected to the ordinary drill and discipline of the Indian constabulary. The reckless use of such exceptional powers for the purpose of punishing and humiliating respectable people is strongly condemned. The journal asks the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller to enquire into the case and see how far Mr. Craven is fit to be in such a responsible charge.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
11th April 1905.

504. *The Indian Empire* draws attention to a case in which a villager of Murshidabad charged one Mr. Williamson, of Gordwara Factory, and ten or twelve men with demolishing a hut occupied by him and damaging certain articles. The police and judicial enquiry showed the case to be true, but in spite of this the man was ordered to be prosecuted for giving false information. On having recourse to the High Court, he succeeded in getting the order of prosecution set aside, but under the instructions of the Magistrate, his Deputy drew up fresh proceedings against the man. The High Court has again issued a rule upon the Magistrate to show cause why the proceedings should not be set aside.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th April 1905.

505. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika* is amused at the reason advanced by the Chief Presidency Magistrate for restraining Tahl Mr. Tahl Ram. Ram from preaching in College Square, and assures Mr. Kingsford that he need entertain no fears on account of the people who go to hear the Punjabi agitator speak. They value their lives just as much as Mr. Kingsford does his own, and would not rush into the unfenced tank to drown themselves as is feared. Mr. Tahl Ram, although twice assaulted, continued his political speeches, and it looks as if no other way existed of effectively stopping him than by serving him with the official order. The Magistrate must give some other sensible reasons to convince the public that Mr. Tahl Ram's lectures are really dangerous !

BENGALEE,
7th April 1905.

506. *The Bengalee* draws the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the fact that although the Dacca Survey School has been raised to the status of a School of Engineering, no corresponding improvement has been made in the tutorial staff. It will be unwise to sacrifice efficiency to economy, and no time should be lost in providing a competent staff.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
11th April 1905.

507. *The Indian Empire* reproduces the Circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to all Divisional Inspectors of Schools, regarding proposed agricultural education, and suggests that the experiment of starting an agricultural garden in connection with a training school may be conveniently made at the first grade school at Hooghly. It is hoped that Mr. Carey will take up the matter and promote the interests of the poor agriculturists in his district.

BENGALEE
6th April 1905.

508. Commenting on the proposed introduction of the borough system of municipal administration in Calcutta, the *Bengalee* The borough scheme of municipal administration. states that it will be cordially welcomed if it combines economy with real self-government. The Government should, however, take the public into confidence and begin by

publishing the Resolution appointing the Committee which is to advise His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter.

509. Commenting on the conditional promise of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to make over to the Kalna Municipality the income derived from the Kalna

A Kalna complaint. ferry, the *Bengalee* states that the two crying needs of the population to which the money could be devoted are improvement of drainage and a sufficient supply of wholesome drinking water whereby the spread of malaria will be checked.

If Government deputes the Sanitary Engineer to inspect the town and draw up a scheme in consultation with the Municipal Commissioners, a satisfactory beginning can be made.

BENGALEE,
7th April 1905.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

510. A daily passenger from Chandernagore writes to the *Telegraph* Irregularities on the East Indian Railway.

complaining of the serious inconvenience occasioned by the recent alteration in the train service on the East Indian Railway. All local trains are inordinately late in arriving at Howrah and departure of the up trains is every day harassingly late. It is also necessary that the Railway Board should depute some official to enquire into and report on the miserable condition of the unfortunate third-class passengers.

TELEGRAPH,
8th April 1904.

(h)—*General.*

511. Lord Curzon's Budget speeches are, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Lord Curzon on himself. annual reviews of his own administration. In his last speech he has entered on an elaborate defence in connection with the charges brought against him, but the journal considers that His Excellency has failed to understand the case of his critics.

He will not please the people by denunciations or overcome discontent and paralyse opposition by refusing to look at a budget of grievances in the form of Congress resolutions. This will only give strength to the cause he attacks.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd April 1905.

512. Adverting to Lord Curzon's defence of himself, made in the course *Ibid.* of his Budget speech, the *Bengalee* says that the only interpretation that can be placed upon the

line of defence and explanation adopted by His Excellency is that his remarks in the Convocation address have been misunderstood. If they were capable of any other interpretation than that put on them, why has an explanation not been forthcoming all this time? It is gratifying, however, that His Excellency's Budget speech was in tone and attitude an improvement on what the Indian public have been accustomed to in Lord Curzon's speeches. In the opinion of the journal, it is a hopeless task for His Excellency to attempt to defend his measures. Instead of promoting the progress of the country, they tend to retard it.

BENGALEE,
8th April 1905.

513. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments on the success which attended the protest meeting held at Allahabad, under the presidency of Pundit Bishambhar Nath, who is the recognised leader of the local Bar. His speech was a masterly one and free from those blemishes which so disfigured the Convocation address of the Viceroy. It proves conclusively why Lord Curzon has become so extremely unpopular. If India can act in concert on every occasion like this, the *Patrika* considers that the people need not despair.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th April 1905.

514. The *Bihar Herald* comments favourably on the closing speech of the President at the Budget Debate. It was free from The Budget Debate. those offensive reflections and uncharitable references which disfigure some of Lord Curzon's latter-day writings and speeches. The speech bears unmistakeable marks of an ill-concealed regret at the ugly and unjust aspersions cast by him upon the Indian character in his Convocation address.

BIHAR HERALD,
5th April 1905.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th April 1905.

515. Referring to the latest case against Mr. Carey, Magistrate of Hooghly, in which he shamefully abused Babu Mr. Carey again. Peary Mohan Roy, grandson of the late Raja Ram Mohan Roy, for having left the Magistrate's bungalow at Gopalganj without permission, the *Indian Empire* hopes that His Honour will be pleased to order the result of the enquiry to be published as soon as the report on the case has been received.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BENGALEE,
8th April 1905.

516. With regard to the appointment of two European scientists to study the etiology of plague, the *Bengalee* remarks that this should have been done at the first outbreak of the epidemic seven years ago. Something might have been done by this time to ascertain the real nature of the disease and to check its course of devastation.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th April 1905.

517. Commenting on the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in India as a means of helping poor raiyats with loans in times of difficulty, the *Indian Mirror* points out that it would be preferable if agriculturists could be encouraged to jointly start *golas* of grain on the co-operative system, as has been successfully introduced in Dinajpur district by Rai Parvati Sankar Chowdhury. This institution of Dharma *golas* is practical and useful and has been highly commended by the Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson and Mr. W. R. Gourlay, the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies, Bengal. The only objection against it would be removed if some scientific method could be discovered for preserving in store for a long time such grains as *bajra*, *jowar*, and wheat.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 15th April 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.